

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AID-20 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 GAC-01 RSR-01 /166 W

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R 171142 Z MAR 73 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1507
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR

SUBJECT: WINDUP OF PREMIER KOSYGIN' S VISIT TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 1683

SUMMARY: KOSYGIN DEPARTS IRAN, FOLLOWING INAUGURATION OF SOVIET
ENGINEERED STEEL MILL, IN AURA OF FRIENDLY IRANO- SOVIET RELATIONS.
END SUMMARY

1. SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN DEPARTED MARCH 16 FROM ISFAHAN FOR
MOSCOW FOLLOWING THE INAUGURATION OF THE 750 MILLION DOLLAR
ARYAMEHR STEEL MILL. IN HIS INAUGURATION REMARKS KOSYGIN
STATED IRAN HAD FULL POTENTIAL TO BECOME A POWERFUL INDUSTRIAL
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NATION, STRESSED THE ROLE OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, POINTED OUT THAT WITHOUT SUFFICIENT STEEL NEITHER AN OIL INDUSTRY NOR A MACHINE TOOLS INDUSTRY CAN BE DEVELOPED, AND REFERRED TO SOVIET EXPERTS UNDERTAKING THE MOMENTOUS TASK OF BUILDING THE GIANT STEEL COMPLEX AND TRAINING IRANIAN TECHNICIANS TO OPERATE IT.

2. PRESS REPORTED THAT ON MARCH 15 AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WHEREBY THE SOVIET UNION AGREED TO MAKE CREDITS AVAILABLE IN THE AMOUNT OF 140 MILLION RUBLES FOR EXPANSION OF THE STEEL MILL. KOSYGIN ATTENDED THE SIGNING CEREMONY AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY. ALTHOUGH NO DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE AVAILABLE IT IS THOUGHT THAT AN UNDERSTANDING WAS PROBABLY REACHED WHEREBY AN INCREASE IN BOTH THE PRICE AND AMOUNTS OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLIED THE SOVIETS AS PAYMENT FOR THE STEEL MILL WAS WORKED OUT TO IRAN'S SATISFACTION.

3. NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE SHAH SOVIET PREMIER SOUGHT TO REASSURE IRANIAN SOVEREIGN OF THE SOVIETS' FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL, DISCUSSED THE SITUATION IN SUB- CONTINENT AND EMERGING PATTERNS IN ASIA. SEMI- OFFICIAL KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL STATED ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS THAT THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND FOUND THEIR VIEWS " CONVERGENT IN MOST CASES". SAME NEWSPAPER COMMENTED THAT SENDING KOSYGIN TO IRAN FOR THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY IS SEEN HERE AS INDICATION OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP' S DESIRE TO REASSERT ITS INTEREST IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH TEHRAN.

4. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL IN MARCH 17 EDITORIAL VIEWS KOSYGIN' S VISIT AS HELPING REASSERT THE UNDERSTANDING WORKED OUT BETWEEN TEHRAN AND MOSCOW DURING SHAH' S VISIT LAST OCTOBER. NOTES THAT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY. IRAN' S BIGGEST FRONTIER, EDITORIAL STATES, IS SAFE AND SECURE, WHICH IS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SAFEGUARDING REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY, AND AT SAME TIME THE SOVIETS SECOND LARGEST BORDER IS SECURE " THANKS TO FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH IRAN". CONTINUING THEME, EDITORIAL SAYS IRANO- SOVIET FRIENDSHIP ALSO HELPS REDUCE DANGERS OF POLARIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST THEREBY PREVENTING SITUATION IN WHICH BIG POWER RIVALRIES ARE PROJECTED INTO LOCAL AFFAIRS WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS FOR ALL CONCERNED.

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COMMENT: IN SUM KOOSYGIN' S VISIT ENDS ON NOTE OF " RENEWED AND

EXPANDED" FRIENDLY IRANO- SOVIET RELATIONS. BEHIND ALL
THE FINE WORDS, AND THE SUBSTANTIVE ECONOMIC COOPERATION
THAT IS IN FACT TAKING PLACE, HOWEVER, IRAN' S LATENT
DISTRUST OF SOVIET POWER AND INTENTIONS REMAIN.
HECK

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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